

### Highlights of 1961

### Skiing in Norway – March 1961



Andy 'Paddy' O'Connell the Piper's transport and view of Jorstadmoen



A Edwards - R 'Vic' Jaggard - C 'Dutch' Hollander - Joe Howell - Andy 'Paddy' O'Connell  
John Sharman - Kapt Spilde - Maj Langdalen - Lt David Whitehead - Gordon 'Jock' Dixon



Andy 'Paddy' O'Connell - Joe Howell - Gordon 'Jock' Dixon - ? - A Edwards





Presentation of Pipe Banner and Charter by the Chairman of the Urban District Council Newton Abbot







The Newton Abbot Pipe Banner is now with the Newton Abbot Town and GWR Museum



The Ashburton Pipe Banner is now in the Council Chambers of the Ashburton Town Hall

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BY JAMES'S PALACE,  
S. W. 1.  
WHITEHALL 1422.

21st May 1961.

To my Junior Leaders of Royal Signals,

It is now two years since I visited you all at Denbury, and I have followed with great interest your many achievements and successes since then. I congratulate you all on the imaginative and adventurous journeys you have made to the Continent, the splendid development of your band, which now includes an accomplished section of bagpipes, the outstanding progress of your choir, and now the very well deserved success that has crowned the Ten Tors Expedition, during which you were 'at home' to over eight hundred young people from all the three Services, including the Women's Services, and from youth clubs and schools in many parts of the country.

It is in this way that you will fulfil the hopes and obligations of my Royal Corps and prepare yourselves to be the young leaders we so urgently need in order to carry forward the great traditions of the past.

I read of your various exploits and plans in the Junior Mercury, and I am very happy to receive a copy each month. I understand that

/ ... ..

circulation of this journal is now nearing four thousand copies, which of itself is not only a sign of its undoubted success, but also a very good indication of the support your Regiment receives from the people of South Devon, and regiments and individuals of my Corps. It speaks also for the excellence of the Junior Mercury as a newspaper and the very hard work that goes into its production. I congratulate all concerned in this enterprise.

On this second birthday of the Junior Mercury, I send to Denbury, to the military and civilian staff and to each one of you, Junior Leaders, my best wishes for the future and I am sure that the very high standards you have already achieved will be maintained, and I look forward to following your progress in the Junior Mercury, which I hope will continue to enjoy an ever widening circulation.

*Mary*  
Colonel-in-Chief.



Presentation of the Princess Royal Banner – 19th July 1961



Lt Col LHM Gregory MBE - Junior Pipe Major Bob Etherton - JSGt Joe Smith - Maj Gen L de M Thullier - The Princess Royal



The Princess Royal Pipe Banner is now on display at the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford



## SHAPE – 3rd August 1961



Members of choir visited Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe near Paris

## Graduation Day – 9th August 1961

## Slim Squadron Output



Rear: **J Robertson** - **JLCpl Brian Davies** - **JSgt Mike 'Ginge' Fill** - **JLCpl Mike Hall** - **JSgt G Hardaker** - **JLCpl B Broadberry-Brooke** - **JLCpl P Kay**  
**A Scaife** - **JCpl Mick Willoughby** - **G Farmer** - **M Crowley** - **JSgt Jim Rodger**

Centre: **S Gill** - **G White** - **JSSgt Donaldson** - **JSgt Miles Stallard** - **J Lees** - **JLCpl Geoff 'Harry' Harrison** - **JCpl Jim Saunders** - **JLCpl Allan Dixon**  
**P Capon** - **JLCpl George Nuttall** - **JCpl R Williamson** - **R 'Tich' Cann**

Front: **Sgt GA 'Tash' Avon** - **SSgt Sweeney** - **SSgt Hammond** - **WOII RJ Wombwell** - **Capt JM Hewson** - **JRSM Bernard 'Bugs' Bourgoise**  
**Maj Harry Rothwell** - **JSSM Ted Haslam** - **Capt David Whitehead** - **2Lt LA Rowntree** - **SSgt DAW Nicholls** - **Sgt Geoff Young**





First prize in the Army Arts and Crafts Exhibition – JSig D Forster and JSig J Lond

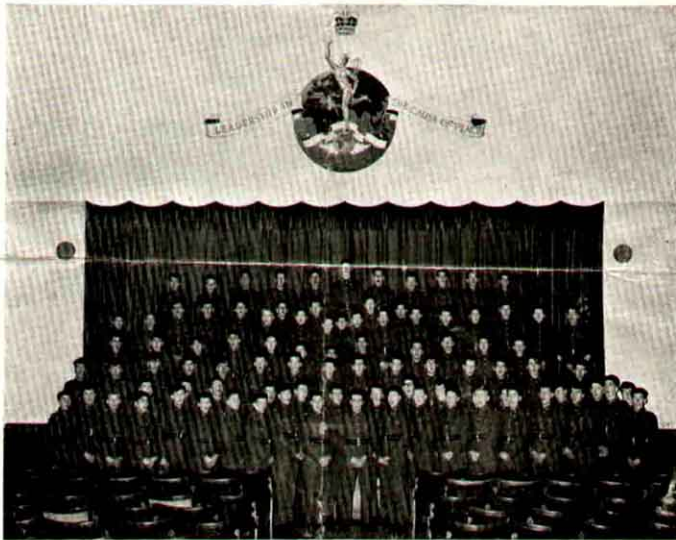


Fortieth Anniversary

**Ashburton Branch British Legion**

HAVE PLEASURE IN PRESENTING

**The Regimental Choir  
OF THE  
Junior Leaders' Regiment (Royal Signals)**



by the kind permission of the Commanding Officer  
*Lt. Col. L. H. M. GREGORY, M.B.E., R. Sigs.*

AND A

**Programme of Entertainment  
by members of the Ashburn Revellers**

under the direction of **QUEENIE HAWKINS & GORDON DUMBLE**

PROGRAMME PRICE SIXPENCE

**P R O G R A M M E**

**"THE QUEEN"**

Signature Tune—	Scotland: "Westering Home"
"Begone Dull Care" (Regimental March of the Royal Signals)	England: "Land of Hope and Glory"
"Gandeamus Igitur" (Regimental March of the R.A.E.C.)	===
Songs of Our Country—	"The Whiffenpoof Song"
Wales: "Land of my Fathers"	"Bless This House"
Ireland: "The Pride of the County" [Down	"The Three Bells" (Jimmy Brown)
	"Abide with Me"

*Officer-in-charge: Captain D. G. ROWE, R.A.E.C.*

*Music arranged and Choir conducted by  
Mr. VICTOR WEBBER (Head of Music Department, Hele School, Exeter)*

THE CHOIR was formed in October, 1959, and sang before HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN at The Albert Hall, in November, 1960, in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance. In the Christmas of 1960, the Choir made a Christmas Broadcast to British Troops throughout the world. The Choir consists of one hundred and twenty young boy regular soldiers (approximately one third of the Regiment) and are, under the auspices of N.A.T.O., touring Holland, Germany and France in July, 1961.

"Any Resemblance" .... The Revellers	"Song Time" .... Norman Pearse
"Sweet and High" .... Jenny Webb	"Down Below" .... Gordon & Ron
"Agricultural Rakes" Norman, Gordon, Ron & Queenie	"Sweeter & Higher" .... Jenny Webb
"No Flowers" .... Queenie & Hazel	"Big Business" .... Gordon & Ron
"Tele Trouble" Queenie, Hazel, Ron & Gordon	"We Finish" .... The Revellers

*The Revellers*

**NORMAN PEARSE, NORMAN LEWIS, JENNY WEBB  
HAZEL INGLIS, RON INGLIS, QUEENIE HAWKINS  
GORDON DUMBLE**

*wish to thank*

**JIM BROOKING, STEWART BROOKING, MICHAEL REBBETTS  
for their brave assistance**



# FIRELIGHT FANTASY

*An Episode in the Life of a Junior Leader*

We have visited you, played for you, sung for you and danced for you in Ashburton, Bovey Tracey, Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Paignton, Totnes, Torquay and Taunton.

You honoured us by presenting us with pipe banners which we carry with pride.

WE NOW INVITE YOU TO VISIT US. We are preparing, for your entertainment, a

## FIRELIGHT TATTOO

on SATURDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, commencing at 6.30 p.m.



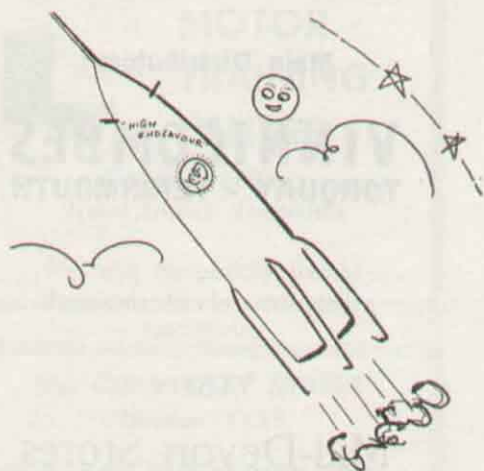
HEAR THE  
BAND PLAYING



SEE THE DANCERS  
DANCE A  
THIRTYTWOsome REEL



★  
WATCH THE  
LAUNCHING OF THE  
DENBURY SATELLITE



LISTEN TO THE CHOIR



THE BURNING OF THE GUY



THERE WILL BE  
REFRESHMENTS TO SUIT  
THE WHOLE FAMILY

Come and LAUNCH A BALLOON INTO SPACE carrying your Name and Address

THIS IS ALL TO BE HAD IN DENBURY ON  
**SATURDAY, 4th NOVEMBER at 6.30 p.m.**  
MAKE A DATE WITH SOUTH DEVON'S OWN JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT



Daily



Mail



NO. 20,413

FOR QUEEN AND COMMONWEALTH

News Chronicle

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1961

PRICE 3d.

Troops search by headlamps through the night

# AIR HUNT FOR BOYS

By Daily Mail Reporter

**E**IGHT boy soldiers had been missing last night for more than 24 hours in mist and snow on the wildest part of Dartmoor.

The boys, aged 16 to 18, were lost during a night exercise. They had no food with them.

Army lorries drove over the rocky moorland last night with headlights on, but could find no trace of the boys.

Signalling stations have been set up on tors in the search area. If the boys are not found by dawn a big search with aircraft will begin.

In the mist the boys could stumble on the moorland bogs. They also face the danger of streams swollen to torrents by heavy rain.

The boys, who were among 400 cadets taking part in the exercise, were in two groups of three, and one of two.

In each group was one who fell out of the eight-mile map-reading exercise because of fatigue. The others had stayed behind to help the fatigued boys back to camp.

A tent and sleeping-bags were given to each group, and they were told by the junior N.C.O. who last saw them to make their way as soon as possible to their checkpoint near Okehampton.

Rescuers went to the sites, between Princetown and Okehampton, where the boys were last seen.

But by then they had moved on, through the snowdrifts, the rain, and the clinging mist.

Altogether 45 of the boys on the exercise failed to complete the course in the scheduled 4½ hours.

A big search was started early yesterday and by nightfall all but the missing eight had been found. Many of the boys were found wet, hungry, and exhausted.

## Hopeful

The boys are all in the junior leaders' regiment of the Royal Corps of Signals at Denbury, near Newton Abbot. Their parents have been informed.

The boys' commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Lionel Gregory, who retires from the Army on Monday, was leading the search last night.

Colonel Alan Holifield, who takes over from Colonel Gregory as C.O. at the barracks, Denbury Camp, said: "We have called for an air search at dawn. We're going on through the night, but it's rather like looking for a needle in a haystack in the dark.

"The lads who are missing all know the moor well. They have been on it every week. They know where the boggy land is.

"This course was not particularly dangerous. But the weather, which the forecast said would be good, turned nasty.

"The boys were not provided with food for the adventure, but I think most of them bought some for themselves.

"Any boys who felt they could not finish the course were told to pitch a tent and rest. The fact that these groups have moved on is a hopeful sign.

"They may be in a cottage or farmhouse."

In South Wales snow and ice brought chaos on many roads. At Merthyr Tydfil the main road to West Wales was blocked for four hours.

The first snow of the winter fell on the Kentish Downs at Wrotham. But a mild air stream from the Azores is expected to bring warmer weather for the weekend.



# 8 BOYS VANISH

## *Searchlight hunt over Dartmoor*

By MICHAEL CHARLESTON

**A**RM Y searchlights flickered through the rain and mist on snow-patched Dartmoor last night in a search for eight lost boys.

The missing eight, junior leaders from the Royal Corps of Signals boys training regiment at Denbury near Newton Abbot, were among 45 who failed to check in yesterday after a night compass exercise by 400 boy soldiers.

Soldiers and civilians searched the desolate moors and bogs between Princetown and Cranmere Pool and found 37 of the boys who had left Okehampton on Thursday night.

But eight — exhausted stragglers from three patrols — who decided to camp while their fresher companions went on to complete the course, could not be traced.

The boys, aged between 16 and 18, are in three groups—two bands of three and a pair on their own. They have bivouac tents, sleeping bags, maps, and compasses.

### **Into fog**

As darkness came with driving rain and rolling fog that cut visibility to less than 15 yards soldiers with portable searchlights moved out from the last reported positions of the lost boys.

And Army vehicles from as far away as Taunton patrolled the surrounding roads in case the boys attempt a night march.

An officer at Denbury Camp said: "We shall go on searching all night if necessary, but we are not particularly worried. The boys are all pretty tough and are used to regular exercises on the moor."



Extract from the Sunday Pictorial

# RESCUE DRAMA OF 8 LOST BOYS

THESE dramatic pictures show the successful end to the hunt for eight boy soldiers lost in rain and fog on Dartmoor. They were found yesterday, after being missing since Thursday.

But it was not such a happy ending to the story, for ONE of the boys, 16-year-old Anthony Thompson, of Pavenham, 174, was unconscious and suffering from exposure when picked up by helicopter. Last night he was in hospital. He was said to be comfortable.

## 'Adventure'

The eight boys, aged sixteen and seventeen, were among 360 who set out on an eight-mile "adventure trek" over Dartmoor on Thursday night.

### Pictorial Reporter

boy 11 from exposure—was with two others, 17-year-old Cecil Parkinson, of Wedd-bine-street, Ossett, Yorks, and Peter Mills, 16, of Kingsway, Aldershot.

They set up their tent near Crammere Pool in the heart of the moor.

Early yesterday, because his two companions were suffering from the cold, Parkinson set out to fetch help. He reached a farmhouse at Mary Tavy, near Tavistock.



and a half hours. But, with snow on the ground, came rain and fog.

Troops and police with tracker dogs searched the moor around Okehampton all day Friday for the missing boys. Yesterday eight helicopters and three spotter planes were called in. And finally the boys were found.

They had survived two freezing nights in their tents with only biscuits and chocolate to eat.

## Proud

An Army officer said: "We are proud of them."

Boys who were fit, he said, had obeyed orders and stayed with those unable to carry on. Anthony Thompson—the

But by that time a search party had found the two boys, who were taken by helicopter to Okehampton.

Peter Lindsay, 17, of Paul's grove, Portsmouth, David Waterworth, 16, of Sigwells, Dorset, and Norman McPherson, 17, of Enfield-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were also found by a ground rescue party.

McPherson had been unable to march any further and collapsed from the cold. He was fit again yesterday, however. "I just flaked out," he said.

Two other boys, Martin Farmer, 16, of Medmenham, Bucks, and Kenneth Prime, 16, of Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent, were found by helicopter.



● A piggy-back ride for Peter Mills—but he was able to smile.

● Anthony Thompson is carried unconscious from a rescue helicopter by some of his friends. Last night he was in hospital.

—Pictures by cameraman REG LEWIS



Graduation Day – 11th December 1961



Output party march past



JSgt Johnny Beaumont receives the Cobb Memorial Trophy of behalf of Kukri Troop



### Slim Squadron Output



Rear: **Bill Hill** - 2 - **T 'Smudge' Smith** - 4 - 5 - **W Hindmarch** - 7 - **J Blakeborough**

Third: **JSgt Bob Etherton** - **J Watkins** - **J Howell** - **Pete Booker** - **A Crowden** - **Bob McKay** - **A Needham**  
**C Jerram** - 17 - **Jimmy Sneddon**

Second: 19 - 20 - **J Sullivan** - **Mike Boisse** - **Fred Songhurst** - **T Baker** - **J Skinner** - **John Smart** - 27 - **A Hollowell**

Front: SSgt GA 'Tash' Avon - 30 - 31 - 32 - **JSSM JD Lycett** - Maj Harry Rothwell - WOII SSM Wombwell - Capt David Whitehead - 37 - 38 - 39 - SSgt Sweeney

Extract from the Junior Mercury – Dec 61

### AS IN THE BEGINNING – SO AT THE END





To have commanded the Gurkha Signals Regiment and the Junior Leaders Regiment during my Army career is to have enjoyed the most generous honours that the Royal Corps of Signals can bestow on any one of its officers.

I spent twice as long with Gurkhas as with Junior Leaders, but the pattern of events in both regiments has been very similar. I shall treasure most, I think, the privilege that fell to me of representing the Gurkhas and the Junior Leaders at St. James's Palace to receive from the hands of the Princess Royal, our Colonel-in-Chief, her Royal Banner, symbolizing in its heraldic bearings the ancient heritage, glory, and honour of a nation. On the reverse side of the banner, in the case of the Gurkhas, is the figure of Mercury poised on a world under the Queen's Crown, protectively enclosed between two kukris, whose hilts rest appropriately on the words of the Corps motto: "Certo Cito." The reverse side of the Junior Leaders banner depicts the Corps badge emblazoned over a large world and supported by a scroll with the words "LEADERSHIP IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE." The banner with the Gurkhas started its journey from St. James's Palace and went to attend the Coronation of the present King of Nepal in Kathmandu, and has since travelled all over the Far East, before the admiring gaze of every Regiment of Royal Signals and of other Arms and Services in the Far East Land Forces. The Banner of the Junior Leaders Regiment has toured Holland and Germany, visiting a large number of Royal Signals Regiments stationed there. In Holland, it will be recollected, thousands of people saw its rich design and bright colours for the first time, and their admiration and cheers echoed down the long march into Nijmegen at the end of a hundred miles.

I think of each banner as a kind of talisman, or charm, to which wonderful effects may yet be ascribed; for who can tell what great adventures lie ahead of them. The very idea that such a great honour, so closely associated with our Royal Family, should be placed in the proud and trusted hands of Her Majesty's Gurkha soldiers and the Queen's Junior Leaders stirs my sense of romance; and soldiering, after all, is a romantic occupation. To be present when a regimental flag is unfurled into the fresh morning air at the call of reveille; to stand still as it is lowered into the sunset at the sounding of retreat; to experience the thrill encased in a smart uniform; to know the joy of participating in a ceremonial parade; to hear the stirring notes of a Pibroch; to find your eyes going dim before the upsurge of warmth and emotional fervour as you salute the National Anthem remembering your Queen, is to share in the magic that has inspired soldiers ever since soldiering first began. These are the ingredients of which the heart of a true soldier is compounded. Theories come and go, new weapons will appear on the battlefield – each more terrible and murderous than the last – but there are some things that will never change, and the need of them was never greater: COURAGE, FORTITUDE, UNSELFISHNESS, and HUMOUR. All these are to be found in the heart of a soldier and, make no mistake, that heart is the same today as it was 100 years ago, and England owes much to its quality. It is this, more than anything else, that brought us safely and undefeated through two world wars, and it is this also that triumphed at Balaclava and drew the THIN RED LINE, in spite of such tremendous odds and even greater blunders. The soldier who does not know and feel these things deeply, be he of the lowest or highest rank, had better hasten away and take his place on the benches of industry – as quickly as possible. Every soldier is, or should be, potentially a knight in shining armour.

What have I learned at Denbury? Where am I going? What advice, if any, have I to offer to those who follow?

I have learned this: TODAY matters most, and is something complete in itself. To treat every day as a new challenge and to enter into it with a fresh mind, renewed enthusiasm, and a bold spirit is to employ the surest compass on the road to success. A lifetime is made up of an endless succession of TODAYS and each one of them was once tomorrow and will soon be yesterday.

As to where I am going, I am starting out on an initiative test to the East. A personal adventure and an extension of what many of you have often done at Denbury. Like you, I too will leave from Denbury – after a few months planning. Like most of you, I hope to find my way back! My headquarters will be located in a place familiar to all, in a small cottage on the Dart loaned to me by a friend. My purpose is to try and introduce you to your generation in the Eastern Commonwealth; to our great friends and brothers-in-arms in India, Pakistan, and Malaya. I shall also visit Nepal and Burma with the same object in mind, remembering that Burma was once part of the Commonwealth and Nepal is one of our dearest and most loyal friends. I have a feeling that the young people of the Commonwealth, upon whom so much of our future depends, do not know each other, and yet many of their fathers lie buried together on the battlefields of the world. In some small way I would like to subscribe to their knowledge.

When I return, after about a year, I hope to be able to tell you something of my journeys and the youth of all these countries; their way of life, their hopes, their ambitions, their feelings, and what they think of us, our country, and the Commonwealth. All this I shall attempt; to put before you.

What advice have I to offer? Nothing new, I'm afraid; only to repeat what I said when I took over command of the Regiment on 1st May 1959

"IF THERE IS ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE WILL TO SUCCEED IT IS THAT THE WILL SHALL NOT FALTER."



Like many of you, I have thought about the future of Junior Leaders and their training in the Army. I am not in a position to speak in general terms, or to make comments on the training of boys in the Army as a whole. But it does to me seem a pity that we cannot finish with all unhealthy competition and rivalry between Junior Leaders Regiments, and limit such contests to the sports field, gymnasium and boxing ring. Maybe one day the Junior Leaders Regiments will be Brigaded and become the acknowledged champions of teenagers, expressing their views and opinions in their own journal and newspaper – "THE JUNIOR LEADER," perhaps? Think of it: Her Majesty's Own Junior Leaders Brigade. All with a common badge and bound to a single allegiance, each regiment practising the art of leadership against a background of its own skills and requirements. What a lead would this not give to the youth of our nation, too often criticized, so often unfairly? In a special way you have the opportunity of playing host to a very large number of young people at Ten Tors every year. Do not miss or misuse that opportunity.

I ask you to remember the privileged position you occupy in relation to Newton Abbot, the frontier town to the Southwest. Remember also the remarkable fashion in which all the towns and villages that surround DENBURY have identified themselves with us and accepted us as an integral part of the community. The banners of NEWTON ABBOT (rural and urban areas), TOTNES, TORQUAY, PAIGNTON and ASHBURTON, the Denbury Cross presented by the people of BOVEY TRACEY and soon, perhaps, the COUNTY ARMS, are each a sufficient reminder of what I am saying. You owe a special duty to South Devon, and it is one that you must never forget.

Finally, I ask you to walk faithfully and fearlessly into the future with Denbury, and to secure those greater successes that lie ahead and will surely be ours if every one of you gives your complete support and confidence, as I do now, to my good friend and successor, Colonel Holifield.

I wish you all the very best of luck. I offer my thanks most sincerely to all parents and the friends of Denbury in South Devon, for their many kindnesses and for having given me so much help, advice, and encouragement. I thank the officers, warrant officers, sergeants, military and civilian staff for their friendship and support and most of all, I thank you, Junior Leaders, for the best and last two and a half years of my service in the active regular army.

A very happy Christmas, and God bless you all.

**Can you help with more photos?**